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T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G D E C E M B E R 31st 1942.

JANE O. MILLAR, M.B.,D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Civic Health Centre,

Darwen.

July, 1943.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1942. In accordance with the continued instruction of the Ministry of Health, the report is again abbreviated.

Civic Health Centre.

The new premises were opened on the 21st November, by the Right Hon. A. E. Brown, M.C., M.P., Minister for Health. It is particularly gratifying, that, in these days of War the scheme evolved by His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Dr. T. J. Costello, M.C., and Dr. J. Robertson, Medical Officer of Health of the Borough until 1937, should be completed.

The advantages to be derived from the centralisation of the Public Health Department, the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and the School Medical Services are many, and it is pleasing to note an increase in the clinical work being performed by the Department.

Mr. J. C. Almond, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

On the 31st July, Mr. Almond resigned his appointment as Senior Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing, to take an appointment with the Lancashire County Council. I desire to place on record the Department's appreciation of his work and the high esteem in which he was held by all who worked with him.

Mrs. H. H. Shawcross.

After completing nearly 25 years arduous service as a Health Visitor in Darwen, Mrs. Shawcross retired from her employment on the 19th September. During the whole of this long period of service Mrs. Shawcross preserved her zeal and enthusiasm, and her greatest testimony is the affection in which she is held by the mothers and children for whom she worked.

Conclusion.

I should like to record that during the year under review, Dr. R. C. Webster, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., was Medical Officer of Health of the Borough. He continued in this office until the 9th May, 1943, from which date he was released to join H. M. Forces. I am, therefore, submitting this report to you on his behalf.

Following the retirement of Mr. Almond the position of Senior Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing was taken up by Mr. E. P. McGlynn, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., and I have to express my appreciation of his services.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks for the help and consideration shown to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also for the loyal service given by the members of the staff of the Public Health Department. I must also take this opportunity of thanking the Town Clerk, Mr. C. C. Byers, for his willing and able assistance and guidance in the many matters appertaining to Local Government regarding which I have consulted him.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE
1942 - 1943.

* Alderman Dr. T. J. Costello, M.C.,J.P.,
Mayor and Chairman of the Public Health
Committee.
* Vice-Chairman - Councillor W. Grundy.

Alderman	F.C.Duckworth.	* Councillor	Lady Hindle,J.P.
"	H.D.Holland.	"	A.Holden, J.P.
" *	W.Knowles, J.P.	"	F.E.Lightoller,J.P.
" *	R.Marsden, J.P.	"	Mrs.L.L.McAdam.
"	G.Pickup, J.P.	" *	J.D.W.Shaw,J.P.
Councillor	J.Braithwaite.	"	N.B.Shepherd.
"	W.A.Briggs.	"	R.Shorrock,C.C.
"	J.A.Brooks.	"	D.Smith,J.P.
"	E.L.Carus.	"	F.Taylor.
"	J.T.Clark.	" *	Mrs.B.Thompson,J.P.
"	J.Gregory,J.P.	"	E.Yates.

* Members of Health Sub-Committee.
Charles Coutts Byers, Town Clerk.

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STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health.....	R.C.Webster,B.Sc.,M.D.,D.P.H. (Joined H.M.Forces 9th May 1943)
School Medical Officer.....	
Medical Officer of Infectious Diseases Hospital..	Jane O. Millar, M.D.,D.P.H., (Appointed 10th May 1943).
Senior Sanitary Inspector.....	J.C.Almond,M.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A. (Resigned 31st July 1942).
Meat Inspector.....	
Director of Public Cleansing..	E.P.McGlynn,C.S.I.B.,M.S.I.A, (Appointed from 1st December 1942).
District Sanitary Inspectors..	F.Littlecott, A.R.S.I.,M.S.I.A. C.Mayor, M.R.S.I. (Resigned 31st July 1942). D.Walker, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Commenced 1st January 1943).
Matron,Infectious Diseases Hospital.....	Miss E.Anthony,A.R.R.C.,S.R.N.,S.C.M
Consultant Obstetrician.....	A.L.Potter,M.D.,M.R.C.S.,M.C.O.G. (H.M.Forces - September 1939).
Health Visitors and Child Protection Visitors.....	Mrs.H.H.Shawcross,Certified Midwife (Resigned 19th September,1942). Miss G.Waddicor,S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I., H.V. Cert. Miss A. J. Edge, S.R.N.,S.C.M., A.R.San.I., H.V. Cert. (Commenced 1st September, 1942).
Municipal Midwives.....	Miss F.B.Rimmer, S.R.N.,S.C.M. (H.M.Forces from 29th Feb.1940). Mrs.M.Meanwell, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Temporary).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

(Continued.)

School Dentist (Part-time)....	R.V.Clarke, L.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., L.D.S.
School Nurses.....	Miss P.B.Mabbitt, S.R.N., S.C.M.
	Miss S.Caffrey, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Chief Clerk.....	H. Hutchinson.
Clerks.....	W. Haworth.
	J. Bamford (H.M.Forces,Sept.1940).
	Miss M. E. Almond (Resigned 19th August, 1942).
	Mrs. H. Lightbown.
	Miss K. E. Harris (Commenced 7th September, 1942).
School Medical Clerk.....	Miss E. Fish.

SECTION 1.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (Acres).	5,959
Population - Census 1931.	36,012
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population Midsummer 1942.	29,270
No. of inhabited houses - Census 1931.	10,258
No. of inhabited houses end of 1942 according to Rate Books.	10,384
Rateable Value.	£188,643
Sum represented by Penny Rate.	£725

Unemployment - The number of insured persons in the Borough during 1942 was 10,839; 1,231 being Juveniles and 9,608 being Adults. The average percentage unemployed during the year was:-

Juveniles.....	4.9%
Adults.....	1.4%

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1942.

LIVE BIRTHS :-	Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate
Legitimate	354	182	172	
Illegitimate	14	9	5	
	368	191	177	12.5

Rate per thousand births for England and Wales 14.0

STILL BIRTHS :-	17	9	8

Rate per thousand births..... 46

DEATHS :-	416	188	228

Rate..... 14.2

Rate per thousand for England and Wales..... 13.9

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.	... 21 (Rate 57)
All infants for England and Wales.	... -- (Rate 49)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births.	... 20 (Rate 56)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	... 1 (Rate 71)
Deaths from measles (All ages).	... 0 (Rate 0.00)
Deaths from whooping cough (All ages).	... 0 (Rate 0.00)
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... 3 (Rate 0.10)
Deaths from Cancer (All ages).	... 53 (Rate 1.81)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Total Births.	England and Wales.
From Puerperal Sepsis ...	2	5.43	0.42
From other Puerperal Causes..	2	5.43	1.59
	4	10.86	2.01

SECTION 2.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.
There are no changes to record under this heading.

During the year the following specimens were examined at Bull Hill Hospital:-

Throat Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli.... 233

Treatment of Scabies.

During 1942, 51 persons received treatment and made 153 attendances at the Cleansing Station established by the Council under the Scabies Order, 1941.

SECTION 3.
MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

Births Notified:- The number of births notified during the year under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was:-

Live Births.....183 ;	Stillbirths..... 7 ;	Total....190

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics. In September, 1939, Mr. Potter, Consultant Obstetrician to the district, left for Military Service. Consultant Clinics lapsed, but increased work was taken over by the Medical Officer of Health's Clinic, and is still continuing. Practitioners requiring assistance in the delivery of Patients may call in other consultants whose fees are covered by the Local Authority. During the year 366 woman attended the ante-natal clinic and made 1600 attendances.
There is no ad hoc Post-Natal Clinic but 56 women were seen as to post-natal conditions by the Medical Officer of Health and made 102 attendances.

DENTAL SCHEME.

Number of women referred to Dental Clinic by Medical Officer.	...	22
Number of women found to require treatment.	...	21
Number who received treatment.	...	21
Number of treatments (a) fillings.	...	0
(b) tooth extractions..	...	100
(c) number of patients supplied with dentures	...	9
(d) number of dentures supplied.	...	17

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.
(Lancashire County Council Scheme.)

Number of individual school children attended.	...	46
Number of individual pre-school " "	...	33
Number of attendances made.	...	451
Splints supplied.	...	35
Remedial exercises given.	...	125
Number of plasters applied.	...	8
Number of children admitted to Hospital.	...	5
Number of children referred to Manchester Royal Infirmary for X-ray and/or consultation.	...	5

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.

Darwen Children.

Number of individual children who first attended during the year and were - Under 1 year.	...	344
1 - 5 years.	...	95
Total number of attendances of children - Under 1 year.	...	5405
1 - 5 years.	...	5211
Total number of examinations by the Medical Officer of Health.	...	833

Evacuees.

Number of individual children who first attended during the year and were - Under 1 year.	...	12
1 - 5 years.	...	3
Total number of attendances of children - Under 1 year.	...	300
1 - 5 years.	...	67
Total number of examinations by the Medical Officer of Health.	...	22

HOME VISITATIONS OF MOTHERS.

Visits to Expectant Mothers -	First Visits.....	82
	Total Visits.....	99
Visits to children under one year.. -	First Visits.....	356
	Total Visits.....	2032
Ditto. do. children 1 - 5 years	Total Visits.....	3358

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The Health Visitors, as Child Life Protection Officers, followed up the previous years action through the opportunities given them at the various clinics and in their district work. It was necessary during the year to issue a few warnings and to remind foster-parents of their liabilities under Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Mr. E. P. McGlynn, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing, submits in Section 4, 5, and 6, a summary of the work done by the Inspectorial Staff, and the Public Cleansing Department:-

SECTION 4.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

Samples of water were taken during the year.

Bacteriological Examination. Six samples were taken with the following results:-

Four samples were from Public supplies, and three were satisfactory. B. Coli were found in 100 c.c. in the case of the fourth sample. Two samples were taken from private supplies and were satisfactory.

Chemical Examination. Five samples were submitted for examination with the following results:-

Two samples from Public supplies were satisfactory. Three samples submitted were from private supplies and were satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection.

Primary Inspections...	2748
Re-inspections.....	1025
Defects or nuisances discovered.....	890
Defects or nuisances abated.....	691
Informal Notices Served.....	890
Statutory ditto, ...	7
Legal Proceedings.....	Nil

Drainage and Sewerage. There were no important extensions of sewerage during the year. Routine inspection, testing, repair and renewal of existing drains and sewers was carried out.

Rivers and Streams. Periodic inspections were made.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privy Middens.....	0
No. of Pail Closets.....	149
No. of dry Ashpits.....	0
No. of movable Ashbins.....	11845
No. of houses on water carriage system.....	10548
No. of fresh water closets...	9653
No. of waste water closets...	2099
No. of pail closets converted to fresh water closets.....	1
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	36

Public Cleansing.

There was no extension of the service during the year except that still more additional salvage work was undertaken. The satisfactory and efficient administration of the Public Cleansing service is being made increasingly more difficult as the labour and material shortage caused by the present state of hostilities becomes even still further aggravated.

Shops and Offices.

The provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and of the Public Health Act, 1936, so far as it relates to ventilation, sanitation, etc., of offices, were applied. No action other than routine visits, etc., was necessary.

Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year.

Swimming Baths & Pools.

The water of the Town's Public Swimming Baths was examined bacteriologically during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Premises found to be infested have been dealt with by the use of gas. The fumigation by Cyanide was undertaken by a private Contractor.

No. of houses visited regarding Bed Bug Infestation.... 49
No. of houses disinfested..... 40

Offensive Trades.

There are four premises in the Borough occupied by such trades. These were kept under supervision.

Factories Act, 1937.

The provisions of the Act, so far as they concern the Public Health Department, were applied. The administration of the Act was satisfactory. Wherever possible, the Department co-operated with H. M. Inspectors of Factories.

Schools.

The schools in the town were visited during the year. In general, the sanitary condition of the schools was found to be fairly good, and the water supply good and satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one common lodging house on the register. This house is owned and maintained by the Corporation.

Notable Sanitary Improvements.

There has been no notable sanitary improvements made during the year.

SECTION 5.
HOUSING.

New houses erected during the year -

By the Local Authority.....	0
By other Local Authorities.....	0
By other bodies or persons.....	0
By State assistance under the Housing Acts.....	0

Housing conditions have necessarily deteriorated to some extent as an indirect result of the war. Prevailing defects take the form of ordinary disrepair but aggravated partially by the difficulties of labour and shortage of materials. There is no conspicuous degree of overcrowding; any notable "bad conditions" more probably result from lack of ventilation due to exigencies of the "black-out."

The problem of providing new houses remains and is progressively affected by any further deterioration which takes place in existing houses as time goes on.

SECTION 6.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

No. of Dairy Farms.	... 69
No. of Cowkeepers (including Dairyfarms).	... 68
Approximate No. of Cows in the District.	...850
No. of inspections during the year.	...130
No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers).	... 87

Repairs and alterations were carried out at three farms at an estimated cost of £300.

The usual inspections were made of premises where food is prepared.

Samples of milk submitted for biological test for Tuberculosis.		...	15
Results:- Positive ... 2	Negative	...	13
Samples of milk submitted for bacteriological examination.		...	21
Results:- Satisfactory.. 6	Unsatisfactory..		15
Samples of Milk submitted for Sediment Test...			0
Samples of " " for Phosphate Test...			6
Results:- Satisfactory.. 6	Unsatisfactory..		0
Samples of Food submitted for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.			
No. of samples submitted:-			
Milk...32; Other Foods...6; Total...			38
No. of samples found to be not of the nature, substance and quality demanded.		...	1
No. of legal proceedings instituted.		...	1
No. of legal proceedings successful.		...	1

The Public Abattoir.

The Public Abattoir, which had been under the control of the Ministry of Food, was closed at the end of June, 1942, as part of an area centralisation scheme.

Butchers and other food shops, stalls and vehicles, and food preparation places were regularly inspected.